

TO THE LAND OF FAR AWAY

WENT BILLY AND ROSIE IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE.

Now They're Back in the Home of the Red Flowers, but Billy Has the Wanderlust, and You May Find Him Asleep on Your Doorstep Some Fine Night.

Something positively must be done about Billy Bird. Billy Bird is a young fellow, a dreamer and a wanderer, and he isn't running away he lives at 85 Milton street, which is near the Long Island end of the Greenpoint ferry. But Billy Bird suffers from chronic wanderlust that it is an episode in Billy's life to stay a whole week in Milton street without running away.

If some night when you are trying to find the keyhole you stumble across a sleepy little man wearing a blue blouse and knickerbockers, black stockings and lace-up shoes, and no hat, that's Billy Bird. Billy Bird says he is just sick and tired of standing out general alarms for Billy. Billy has begun now to take his six-year-old sister Rosie with him on his expeditions. At 2 o'clock yesterday morning, when Billy and Rosie were found asleep in a hallway over Charley Jock's saloon at 355 Second avenue, Manhattan, Billy, instead of being properly ashamed of himself, said that he intended to keep right on wandering until, 's'p' him Gaud, he gets to his Coney.

But six-year-old Rosie had enough of seeing New York for one day. A long time ago, Rosie confessed, Billy had begun to try to persuade her to leave home on one of his personally conducted tours. The home she had left, she said, was away off some place, with red flowers in the front yard and a piano inside with a picture over it of a man named Uncle John with a mustache and a top hat.

Billy had come home to her at 1 o'clock and with another hitch and tightening of the running string of his blue knickerbockers announced that the call of the Far Away had him in its grip again and he must go. Would Rosie come and see the big bridge hanging on wires and the ships sailing under it miles and miles below; and places with trees, among which men made out of iron sat in iron chairs fastened to the tops of big blocks of stone and all over all, one place on the Bow'ry with three red bellies without handle-awing from the second story and tooting about like the biggest penny balloons ever made? It wasn't 'dum' fur away, and, besides, Billy would hold Rosie's hand, and if she got too tired would Billy'd carry her.

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LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

THE NEW YORK CENTRAL IS GOING IN FOR LANDSCAPE GARDENING ON A MILD SCALE ALONG ITS HUDSON RIVER ROUTE.

For several miles north of High Bridge a strip of sod, about a foot wide, has been laid along the edge of the embankment west of the tracks. The chief object no doubt is to prevent the side of the embankment from being furrowed away by rain, but the strip of grass improves the outlook from the car window. A good deal of the scenery who prefer the railway to other highways, that the sod makes an excellent footpath, and many commuters are wondering how long it will last.

A woman was lamenting to an uptown grocer the fact that the price of lemons had gone up so rapidly during the past month.

"They are not nearly so high in any other city," she said. "Has a trust got its hands on the fruit as well as the meat?"

"No," he said in the omniscient small boy's way, "but the lemons in this city make bum jokes out of it."

"I guess the average American thinks of healthy things as money getting. Even in this neighborhood," remarked an observer as he pointed out Theodore Seligman, the banker, showing a friend a few new golf strokes in front of the Stock Exchange.

One of New York's numerous politicians who have been attending the races at Saratoga returned the other day with a first prize back luck story. He had been tipped to a 10 to 1 shot the first day he struck Saratoga. He played \$50 "across the board" and the good thing happened in. Two of the politician's friends were scattered along just after the finish of the race.

"Come on, boys, and have lunch with me," "I've just made a killing," said the politician.

The friends accepted the invitation and the luncheon bill footed up about \$40. After settling if the politician started out to cash his ticket, he learned that his good thing had been disqualified.

WHITE HOUSE SPELLING.

Roosevelt's Order Applies Only to His Correspondence and Executive Matters.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—Officials of the various executive departments are in a quandary as to how far they ought to go in following the President's spelling reform ideas. Thus far no orders have come from the President directing the use of the simplified method of spelling in the official documents of the various departments. Each department has its printing committee and representatives of these several committees have been in consultation in an effort to come to some agreement and understanding in the matter.

It has been the general understanding that the President's order relates only to his own correspondence and the printing which is done by executive order, that is, all documents emanating from the White House. It is believed, however, that the President wishes to carry the reform further and direct that the executive departments shall also use the phonetic system. To be prepared for such a directive, the various departments have been ordered to consider the matter of having reports which are submitted to the President printed in the new style, the printing committees have taken the subject under consideration.

It has been decided that before anything further is done Public Printer Stillings shall have a conference with the President for the purpose of ascertaining his views and wishes.

So far as printing done by order of Congress is concerned, the Public Printer will be obliged to follow the old style unless Congress otherwise directs.

At Oyster Bay last night Secretary Loeb said that the President's order in regard to phonetic spelling applied only to the official correspondence of the White House and the President's own messages. Mr. Loeb said that the President's order was not intended to change the style of the various departments had taken place merely to consider changes in the book of style, which is a guide in the matter of punctuation, figures of type and other points of printing and had no bearing whatever on the question of phonetic spelling.

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING CONVERTS

The Board Hears of the Spread of the Reform Movement.

All was hustle and bustle yesterday at the headquarters of the Simplified Spelling Board in the Metropolitan Life Building. The news from Washington that the President had extended his order in regard to phonetic spelling to all departments of the Government and the message from Oyster Bay containing the information that the correspondence now going out of Sagamore Hill was being spelled in the new way were of great cheer to Dr. Charles P. G. Scott and his assistants and they grew more hopeful than ever over the prospects of the movement.

The mail arriving at the board's headquarters yesterday was probably the heaviest in one day thus far received by that body. Letters kept pouring in from over the country and requests for circulars numbered in the hundreds. Public Printer Stillings sent for samples of the board's list of words and many inquiries were received from printing houses, advertising men and large commercial concerns of many kinds. A large jewelry firm has signified its intention of using the new forms in its catalogue, and two extensive advertisers sent representatives to secure permission to reprint some of the circulars in 100,000 editions of their new catalogues.

It was also announced that the *Army and Navy Register* would use the simplified spelling in its issues and that *Profitable Advertising* of Boston would also alter the system. The *New York County Review* of Freeport, L. I., has adopted the simplified spelling, and the board has learned that Supt. Poland of the Newark schools has approved the idea and will labor for its introduction. In addition to these the *Chicago State Journal* has signed the adoption card.

The office force devoted much of its time yesterday to the preparation of the list of words to be adopted by the board. The list now extends to 800. A card index system is in use which permits the grouping of names in any manner that the board may desire. In spite of the almost universal ridicule that the newspapers Dr. Scott continued to insist that it was a serious movement and one that was bound to win in the end. He compared it to the movement to establish woman's rights and said that like all great movements its progress must be gradual. He said it was difficult to change radically the spelling of a word as some people seem to think," said Dr. Scott. "For instance, if every newspaper in the country were to spell Chicago with an X instead of a C for the first letter it wouldn't be long before everybody would spell it that way. But we do not intend to be radical. We intend that the reform shall be gradual."

In explaining why in the circulars sent out the board spelled in the old style Dr. Scott said: "We must be all things to all men. If we can reach some by having our circulars in the old style that we could not reach otherwise we will accomplish something. Then, too, there are the newspapers to be considered. The board does not like to impose upon them the trouble of changing the spelling in the circulars we send out."

HILDA SPONG IN "LADY JIM."

DIAPHANOUS COMEDY AT JOE WEBER'S MUSIC HALL.

A Play So Thin You Can See Through It, and a Mystery Too Thick to Explain—Reflex of M. C. Carton and M. A. Jones—Miss Spong Labors in Vain.

It's vastly amusing about the midnight supper, the violets and the clock—at least so the audience at Joe Weber's Music Hall was assured last night, the occasion being the appearance of Miss Hilda Spong in a three act comedy, "Lady Jim." If so, the author, Mr. Harold Heaton, should have told us about those articles of midnight diversion and apparel, for his piece, though it has some bright lines and cleverly sketched situations, is not vastly anything except light and thin.

As it stands, Mr. Heaton does not explain, and play that is more disappointing than the costumes usually seen at this theatre ends in a mystery as thick as pea soup and about as interesting.

On the face of it it is an attempt in the manner of the modern English school of comedy. Mr. Heaton is himself an English actor resident here. But his models are the secondary products of that school, and the imitation falls far short of even its modest original.

Miss Spong was as deliberately graceful as deliberately vivacious an ever, and she worked intelligently to put life and charm into the performance. But unless all signs fall the life of the production will be short.

"Lady Jim" is a maiden still young enough to be chaffed about her advancing years and still spirited and irresponsible enough to be a dangerous object of teasing. Her niece, Winifred, is engaged to Lieut. Geoffrey, who has a reputation for the risks of gallantry on the night carpet; and in order to learn whether he is a proper person to marry an innocent girl she makes an expedition to his rooms at the witching hour to see what fairies she can discover in the enchanted ring of his midnight lamp.

The result is that the youthful Winifred cries off with Lieut. Geoffrey, and presently is engaged to Lord Almy, a silly ass of the conventional pattern, with whom she is already crying off. Her father, Mr. Almy, who has long loved Lady Jim, and a Mrs. Matison-Jones, who owns the cloak and may have been the intended object of the violets and the supper, solemnly declare without enlightening it, and in the end it is announced that Lady Jim has married the dashing young Lieutenant, as it has been evident from the outset that she has.

At the final curtain it is intimated that the secret of the cloak will be divulged in the mystic privacy of matrimony—and not beyond it.

The plain fact is that nobody cares. Mr. Carton made a comedy of the rich Mrs. Repton, who interfered in the love affair of her daughter and a young man, but because his theme was too intellectual and his satire too delicate and keen for the public of Broadway Mr. Heaton has not taken of Mr. Carton's skill and brilliancy and none of Mr. Jones's vigorous intelligence—hence these tears.

The fact is that the piece does not for a moment convey the impression of a comedy, which is to say that they are studied from the point of view of the stage and not that of life. The wit bears a hall mark—which in matters dramatic means the reverse of authenticity. A die having been cut, almost any one can use it.

The audience's interest in the play is a little waning, but in fact it is the conduct of a cab who ought to be kicked. Major Garrison's plot to force the Lieutenant to avoid, abandon and surrender the fascinating Lady Jim is sheer blackmail, and in any country would discredit a gentleman and drum a soldier out of his regiment.

In the character and conduct of his heroine Mr. Heaton had a better opportunity; but the acting of the stage never gets beyond a willingness to be interested in her and her fate.

The three acts are pretty staged, but the acting is mediocre and the stage manager's negative. As the Lieutenant Mr. Herbert Perry helped on the impression of incredible cubsiness. Mr. Charles Harbury did not do much better, as he was hopelessly handicapped by his part.

The *Winifred* of Miss Antonette Perry had some girlish charm and the dawning of intelligence.

As Lord Almy Mr. Lionel Walsh cleverly denoted aristocratic timidity but lacked aristocratic distinction. Mr. Fred C. Patterson had two small parts, as a valet and as an incredible servant in an impossible club, and made more than would have seemed possible of both of them. Miss Spong was beautifully groomed as usual.

A prior conclusion was that the cloak, a thing of beauty in its way, was here.

TURTLE IN THE MAIL BAG.

Snapper Weighing Fifteen Pounds Made Things Lively in Middletown.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Aug. 28.—A large snapping turtle arrived in a mail bag in the post office here to-day. A large number of mail bags had been emptied. When the clerk reached for a bundle a head popped out of his bag and he was startled. The turtle was badly frightened. Kicking away the pile of mail, he uncovered the turtle. It weighed about fifteen pounds and was very ferocious, snapping at everything in sight.

It had the run of the post office for a few minutes until a negro porter turned it on its back and got a rope around it. There was nothing to indicate where it came from and the clerk did not know which bag it had been in.

TRYING IT ON.

Secretary Taft Gets First Presidential Letter in Phonetic Style.

OYSTER BAY, Aug. 28.—The Carnegie board of spelling was used in President Roosevelt's official correspondence for the first time yesterday. The list of 300 words which Prof. Brander Matthews has selected from the simplified spelling board have been reforming was received at the executive offices here several days ago, and it was thought that the stenographers had had practice enough for a first attempt. Secretary William Loeb Jr. didn't need any practice. He has been reforming his spelling for twenty years. The letter to Secretary Taft. It was not made public.

Since the President broke his first lance in the spelling reform crusade he has been receiving most letters. Most of the writers expressed approval, even phonetically, but several spelling standstills were written in real English seasoned with sarcastic indignation.

News of Plays and Players.

Waggoner and Kemper announce that the opening performance of the Astor Theatre will be postponed until Wednesday evening, September 13, when Annie Russell will appear as Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Orrie Johnson and Grace Flikke have signed with Henry B. Harris to appear in Charles Klein's latest play, "The Daughters of Men," which will be produced in Boston September 24.

Bronze Image of Father of His Country

Put in Place.

The bronze statue representing George Washington at Valley Forge was placed in position late yesterday afternoon on the Brooklyn place of the Williamsburg Bridge. The statue is about six feet tall. The large granite base on which it stands was put in place a few days ago. It weighs more than fifty tons. The statue is set on a Register Howe of Brooklyn. It cost \$20,000.

TO BE PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER FIRST

BLIND ALLEYS

By GEORGE CARY EGGESTON. Illustrated. Cloth \$1.50.

In "Blind Alleys" George Cary Eggeston enters upon a new field of fiction, casts his work in a larger mould than any that he has hitherto used, and gives us altogether the most important novel that he has yet written. It is a novel of New York life, and is full of those curious and intricate mysteries of life that abound in a great city. There is a sweet and wholesome love story, and altogether the novel is one of peculiarly fascinating interest.

HEARTS AND THE CROSS

By HAROLD MORTON BRANES. Illustrated. Cloth \$1.50.

Mr. Kramer is another of the Indiana journalists who have contributed so much to recent literature. The story is of a man whose vigorous personality enables him to secure justice for himself under most trying conditions. His fearless honesty and sympathy provoke deadly hatred, augmented by the jealousy of the lover of the heroine, whose interest in the mysterious preacher, so clearly above his present station, adds fuel to the jealous flame. Lawlessness, heroism and noble self-sacrifice have their part in the development of an intensely dramatic plot.

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For Boys and Young Men

A Perfect Military School

What It Will Do for Your Boy

The New York Military Academy is conceded by educators to be one of the most finely-equipped and most ideally-located schools for boys in the East.

It gives a boy thorough, practical preparation for college or the army. The separate department for boys under fourteen, with its own faculty and buildings, is of wonderful advantage. The Academy is now represented by graduates in the Army and Navy and in twenty-four leading colleges and universities.

Through most efficient military organization, under charge of an officer of the U. S. Army, the work of the Academy is doubly effective in forming habits of regularity, promptness and obedience. The boys, who are constantly under the immediate supervision of their instructors, are kept from all evil influence or association, every effort being made to develop high moral character. Special attention is given to exercise and proper amusements.

Visitors are always welcome and the short distance from New York makes investigation easy, but to any who cannot call, a catalogue with full information will be sent on request to the Superintendent.

New York Military Academy

Cornwall, N. Y.

ACTRESS TO WED NOBLEMAN.

New Report of the Engagement of Miss Camille Clifford.

LONDON, Aug. 28.—The engagement was announced to-day of Miss Camille Clifford, the actress, to the Hon. Henry Lyndhurst Bruce, eldest son of Lord Aberdeen. Mr. Bruce confirmed the announcement to newspaper reporters. Miss Clifford is spending a holiday in Norway. Bruce, who is tall and well built and has a frank face, is a sportsman and sportsman.

An interview is printed with young Bruce. When asked if it were true that he was going to marry Miss Clifford, he said: "Well, the fact is, I am in a very awkward predicament at present. We've had a little squabble, you know, but not sufficiently serious to interfere with the engagement. The fact is, I am going into business. I must live, you know, somehow or other, so I am going to buy a motor car concern. There is to be a meeting Friday and I have practically decided. That's the cause of the trouble."

"Miss Clifford thinks I ought to have her advice and she is coming home a day or two earlier to give it to me. I have made up my mind no matter what she says, that I am going to buy the business if the balance sheet is satisfactory. I have been practically running it for three days, so I ought to know something about it."

"First met Miss Clifford at a tea in her flat. At first I wasn't taken with her, not a bit. I must say this for her, however. Many a girl on the stage snags at a fellow in my position. I may tell you I've been in all sorts of offices, but she is a very independent and refused to listen to any of them. Quite nice, wasn't